Message Text

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R 130702Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3009 INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 0513

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CDES, UR

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT: AMENDMENT

REF: (A) 76 STATE 310909, (B) MOSCOW 0209

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT CONCERN THAT ANNUAL DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT REFLECT ALL PROBABLE COSTS OF SHIPMENT, SO THAT DEPARTMENT IS NOT FACED WITH NECESSITY OF GOING BACK TO BEREAVED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO PAY FINAL INTOURIST ACCOUNT. ESTIMATES USED IN CURRENT DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT INCLUDE EXPENSES AND ARE BASED ON PREVIOUS ACTUAL CASES.

2. IN OTHER RECENT CASES OF AMCITS WHO DIED OUTSIDE MOSCOW (VOLK, AUGUST 1975 AND PODNEY, AUGUST 1976), TOTAL INTOURIST BILL WAS IN \$1500 RANGE. IR PODNEY CASE, WHICH IS ONLY ONE IN WHICH INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS WERE LISTED SEPARATELY, TRANSPORTATION OF REMAINS FROM L'VOV TO MOSCOW (APPROXIMATELY 1500 KM) COST 44.38 RUBLES, OR U.S. DOLLARS 59.33. BASED ON THIS, CHARGES FOR PALOIAN SHIPMENT SEEM HIGH AND, AS INDICATED REFTEL (B), EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED CLARIFICATION. PENDING CLARIFICATION, EMBASSY BELIEVES CURRENT DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT REFLECTS COSTS ADEQUATELY, AND IS FAR MORE ACCURATE THAN FIGURE OF \$3000 WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED IF PALOIAN CASE SERVED AS MODEL.

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3. REFTEL (A) INDICATES THAT DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN REQUIRED WITHIN LAST YEAR OR SO TO GO BACK TO BEREAVED TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL FUNDS. WITH EXCEPTION OF PALOIAN CASE, WHICH AS INDICATED ABOVE SEEMS TO BE AN ANOMALY, EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY RECENT CASES IN WHICH DEPARTMENT HAD TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECAUSE OF INTOURIST BILLING ERROR INVOLVING FAILURE TO INCLUDE PRICE OF COFFIN IN ORIGINAL BILL, EMBASSY HAD TO REQUEST

FUNDS TO PAY SUPPLEMENTAL BILL WHICH WAS RECEIVED ONLY AFTER ACCOUNT WAS PRESUMED CLOSED AND EXCESS FUNDS FROM ORIGINAL DEPOSIT HAD BEEN RETURNED TO DEPOSITOR. EMBASSY WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR COSTS CLOSELY AND WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT RISING COSTS ARE REFLECTED IN EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR DEPOSITS OF FUNDS.

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